

949 are not too rare. (2)

2. Ease in delivery is called bofajj;
difficulty is called bonsombo.

A husband asks his mother-in-law to come and help her daughter. Other kinewomen of the husband or the wife do not refuse [481] their services either. Among them there is always one who is more expert in these matters and who acts as a midwife (midwa).

The delivery takes place in the banana grove behind the hut; there is light and air there. In the house it would be more difficult.

The husband cannot be present at this event. His presence would make it difficult and painful. The further away he is, the better. The prohibition is not rigid, however; if there is no one to help his wife (as in the case of an unexpected delivery in the forest, etc.), he will have no hesitation whatsoever in helping her with all the power and skill at his command.

To facilitate the arrival of the child, the midwife gives the wife a potion to drink "in order to make slippery" (boté wí bofajj), and administers a douche containing bofimo bark.

If the pains continue for several days and all medication is without results, it is assumed that some evil spell (liloka) is at work. To neutralize it the woman in labor is "blessed" (-saka). For that purpose her family and that of her husband each bring a stalk of the bekajj plant (bofajj). Two kinewomen, each with the male of her respective clan, squeeze out the sap with which they smear the woman's abdomen. After that the delivery takes place in a normal fashion.

The change (doctor-magician) only intervenes when a woman has already had several miscarriages or when all her children die. If he is consulted he invariably attributes such misfortunes to the action of spirits of the deceased, who may be appeased by offerings and the promise that a manifestation of their will be heeded with respect to the naming of the child. Usually he adds that a few domestic prohibitions must be observed until the child is weaned.

Article V. Name Giving

553 Naming does not occur on any predetermined date. It is not delayed without a special reason. No feast or ceremony accompanies the event. The father simply puts colored powder on the child's forehead as a sign of joy.

It is the father's right to choose a name for his child. Sometimes he asks for the family's opinion. Preferably he gives names of his relatives, deceased or living, or sometimes his own. But it is proper to respect the mother's feelings also. Failure to take them into account could provoke the woman to cause an abortion in order to punish him for being so willful as to neglect her family.

(95) A painful childbirth, like the repeated death of preceding
 (96) children, is often attributed to the rancor of a dead person who is discontented. In such a situation the Nkundo await the verdict
 (97) of a dream, or they have recourse to the judgment of a nkanga (doctor-magician) in order to be able to satisfy the irascible dead.

553 If the situation recurs too often, the calamity is attributed
 551 to a rivalry between dead persons who are fighting over which of their respective names should be given to the newborn; the envious loser kills the child. In order to avoid such mean vengeance and make everyone content while satisfying none, the father gives the child a neutral name or a Botiwa name, such as Botiwa, Sika, Éfalina (nameless), Botsila (lack of success, bad luck), Litili (dead without known cause), etc. If the child has already received a name, but for one reason or another the inauspicious fury of a ghost is feared, it is always possible to change from that name to another.

Children are usually given the names of relatives of the same sex. Exceptions are sometimes made, however, if one of the sexes is not sufficiently represented among the progeny, in which case the bearer of the name can always change it later, and he almost always does. Nevertheless, there are [500] no specifically male or female names, except for those that consist of the relative form of a verb, such as Ósuka, "the coquette," Óyemengo, "she who comes with plenty," Ófénji, "she who excels." Finally, certain names are sometimes used for either sex.